

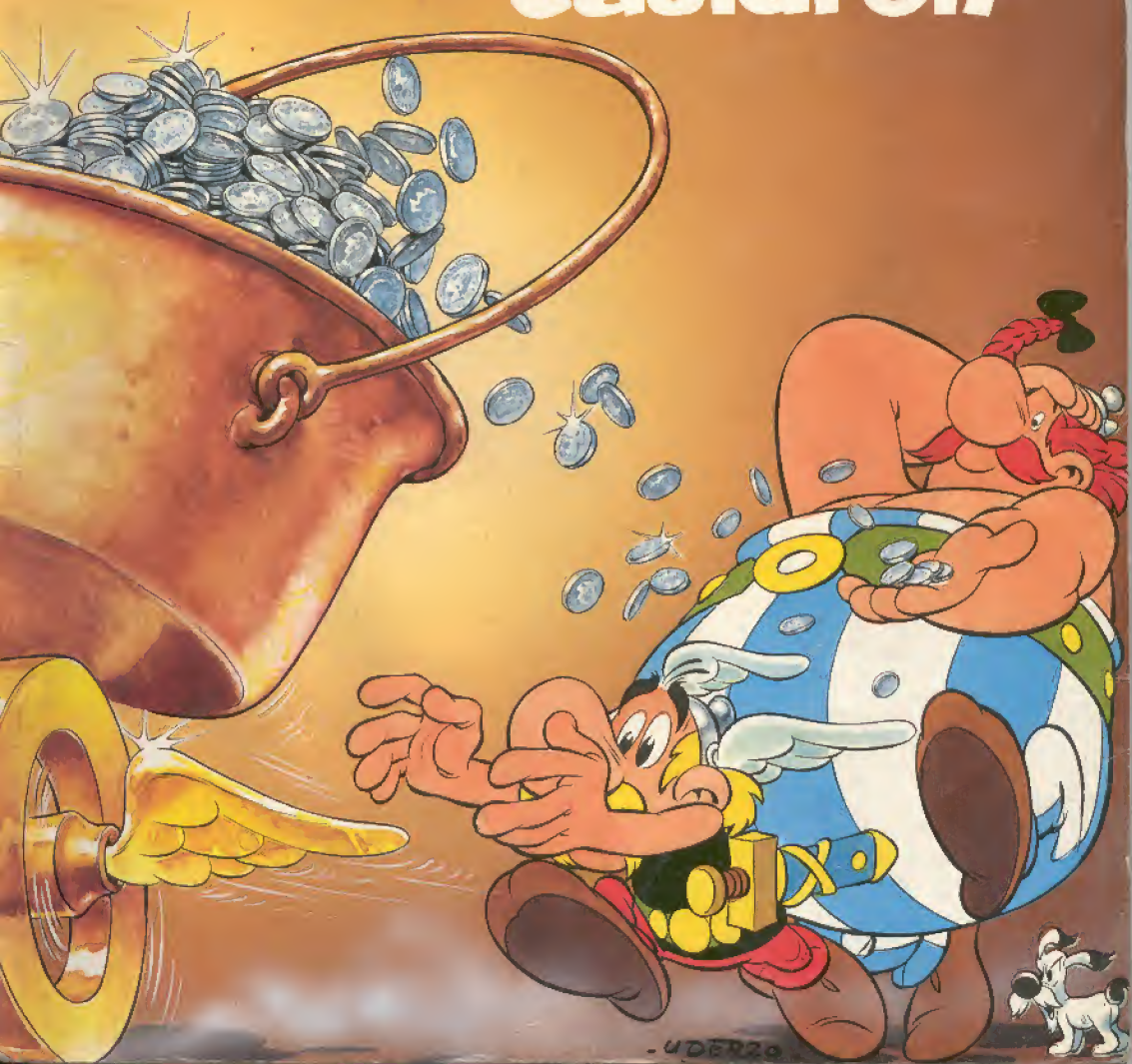
HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

Asterix

and the
cauldron









WHEN I KNEW WHAT THE ROMANS INTENDED TO DO I DIDN'T HESITATE / I GRABBED THE FIRST AVAILABLE CONTAINER, THREW OUT THE ONION SOUP SIMMERING INSIDE IT, AND FILLED IT WITH ALL MY SESTERTII.



AND I HAVE BROUGHT IT TO YOU FOR SAFE KEEPING / THE ROMANS WILL NEVER DARE TO LOOK FOR IT HERE!

BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE HIDDEN THE MONEY... BURIED IT?



NO... THE ROMANS ARE ALWAYS EXCAVATING... THERE ARE SO MANY BURIED TAXES ABOUT THEY'LL PROBABLY BE GETTING PLUG UP FOR CENTURIES TO COME!



IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO PREVENT THE ROMANS GETTING THEIR HANDS ON THIS MONEY...

IT IS, ISN'T IT?



...BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THEIR GOOD TABLETS... ESPECIALLY AS THE ROMANS LIKE PEOPLE WHO PAY THEIR TAXES REGULARLY.

WHAT?



YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO DOUBT MY PATRIOTISM! I MAY DO BUSINESS WITH THE ROMANS...



... BUT I ALWAYS MAKE THEM PAY TWICE THE PRICE I'D HAVE CHARGED MY GAULISH CUSTOMERS!

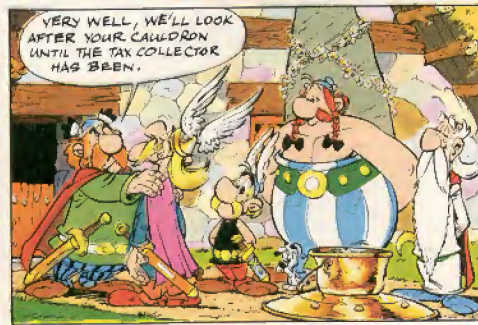
THAT'S GOOD!

VERY GOOD!



AND DO YOU DO MUCH BUSINESS WITH GAULS?

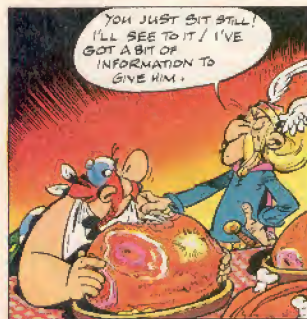
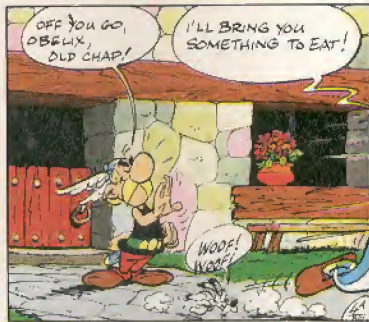
NO... THE ROMANS BUY EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO SELL!

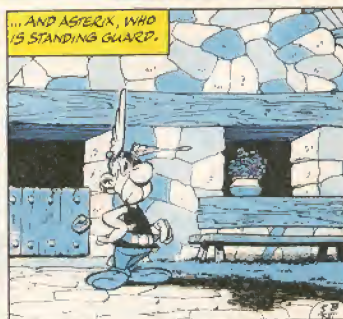
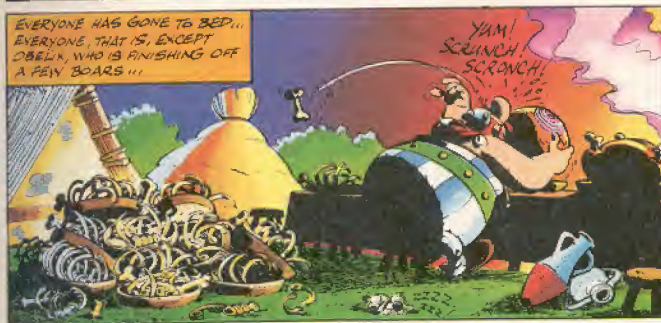


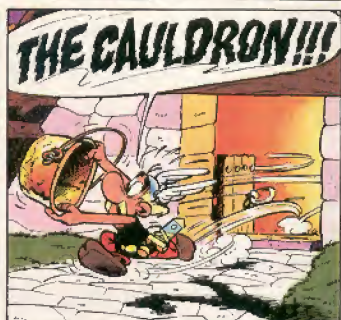
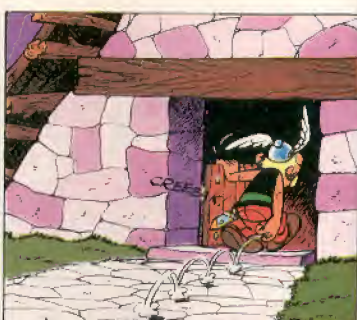
VERY WELL, WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOUR CAULDRON UNTIL THE TAX COLLECTOR HAS BEEN.

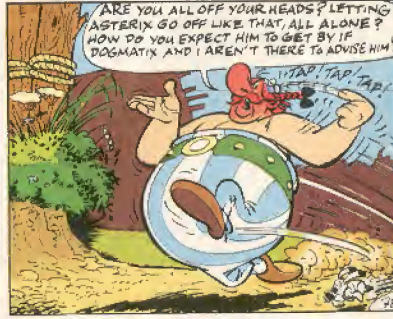
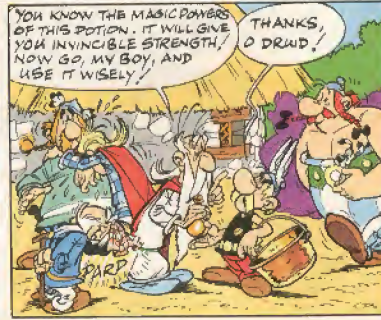
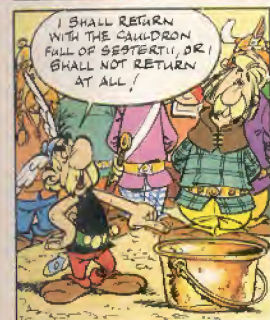
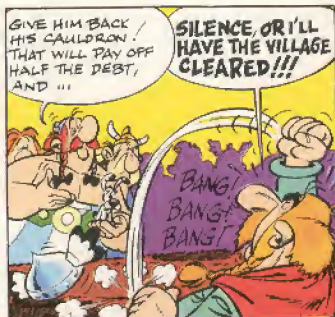


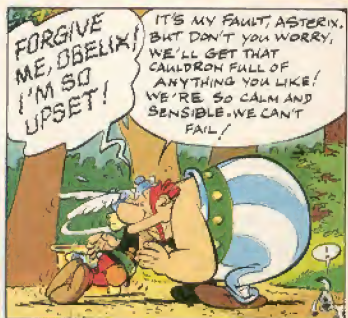
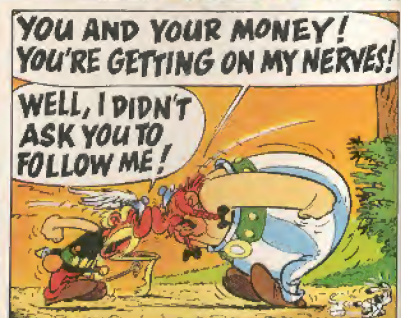
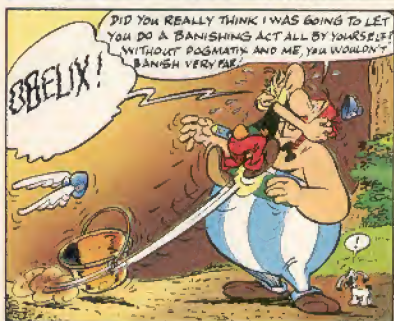
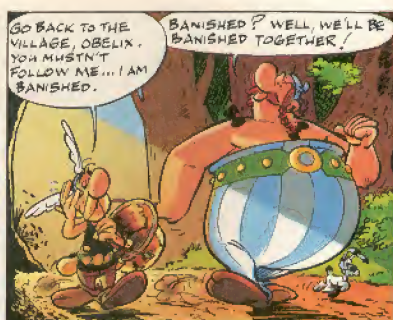
I WILL PUT IT IN THE HANDS OF MY MOST TRUSTWORTHY WARRIOR: **ASTERIX!**

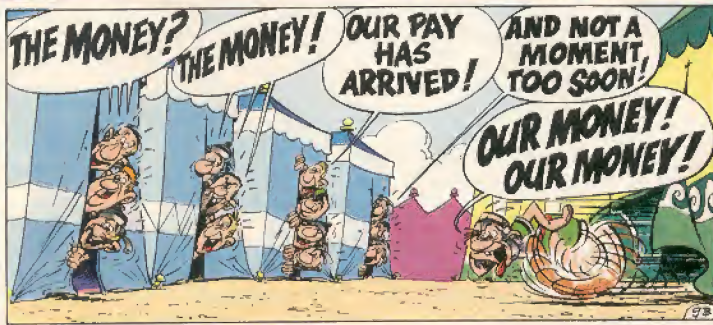
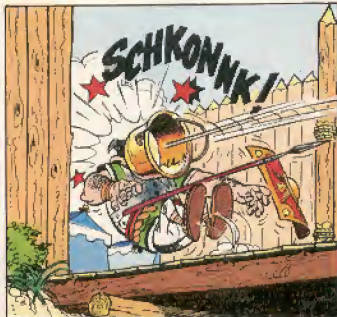


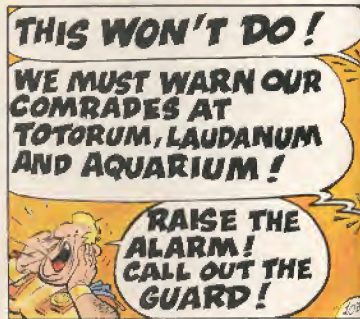
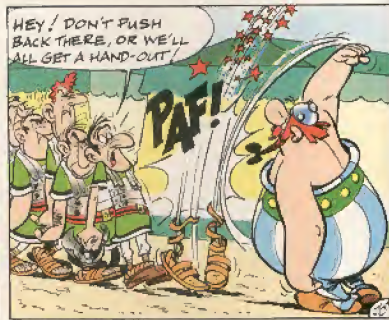
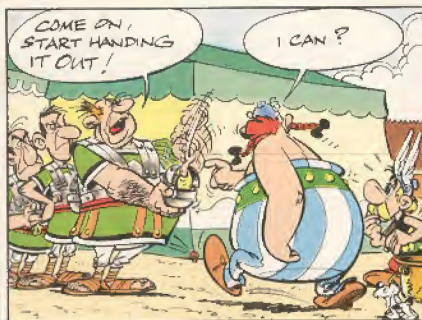


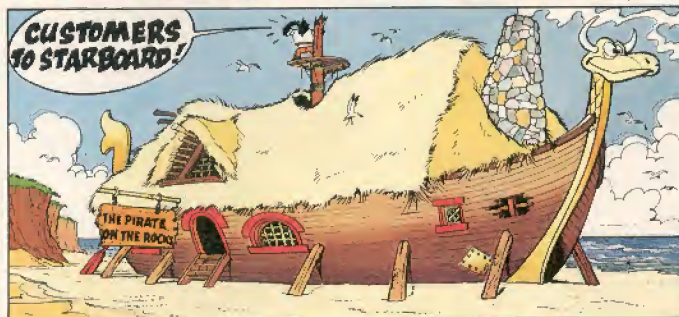
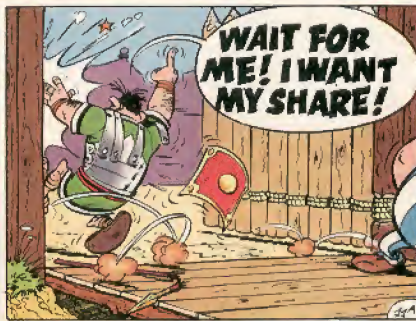


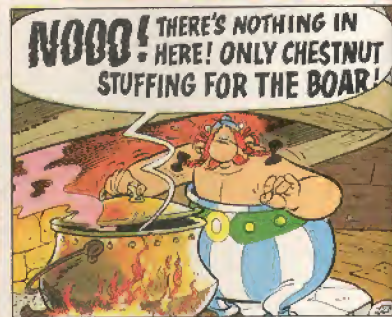
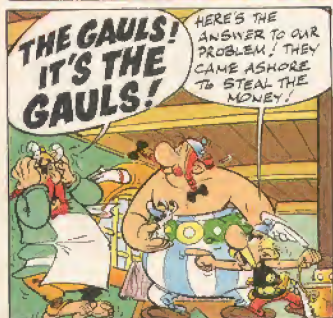
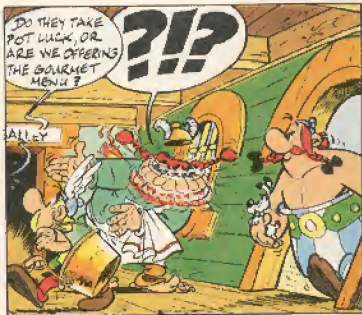


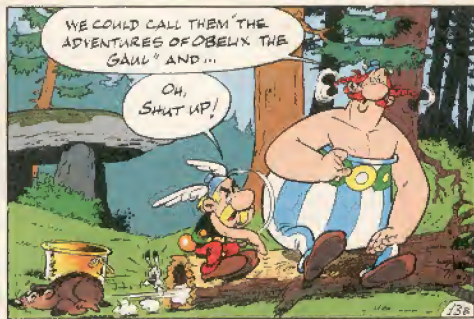
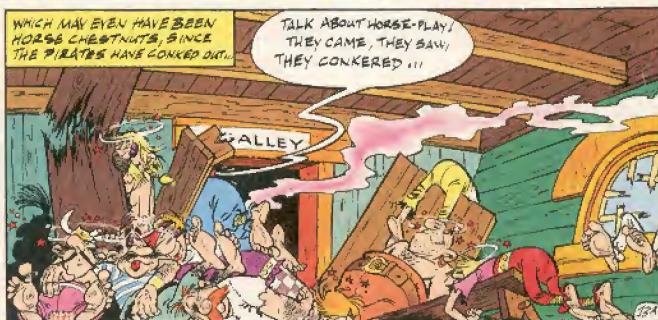
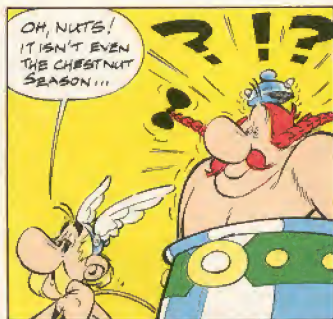


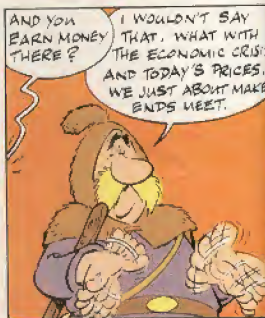
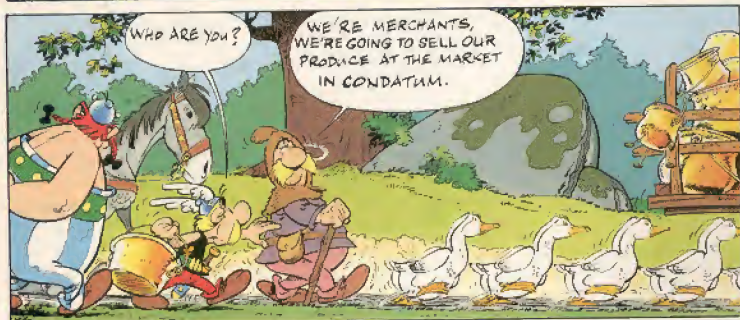
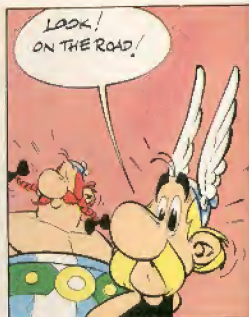




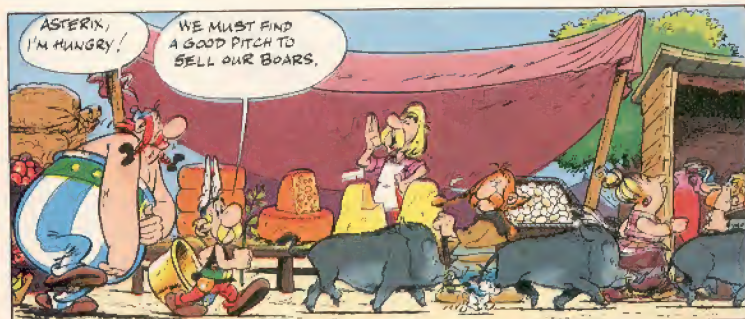














YOU'RE MAKING PRICES TUMBLE!
IT'S DAYLIGHT ROBBERY! IT'S A CRIME!
FOURTEEN PRIME BOARS LIKE THAT
FOR FIVE SESTERTII! THE BOTTOM
WILL FALL OUT OF THE MARKET!

OH, THEY WEREN'T AS
PRIME AS ALL THAT...
ONLY TODDLERS. I WAS
JUST TELLING
ASTERIX...

IS IT YOU
SELLING BOARS
AT FIVE SESTERTII FOR
FOURTEEN?

?!

YOU SEE? I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
PREVENTS ME
FROM...

?

TEHAC!

I DO

RIGHT. WHEN HE
GETS BACK, TELL
HIM TO KEEP A
GROSS FOR
ME.

A GROSS?

THAT'S
WHAT I SAID:
FOURTEEN
FOURTEENS

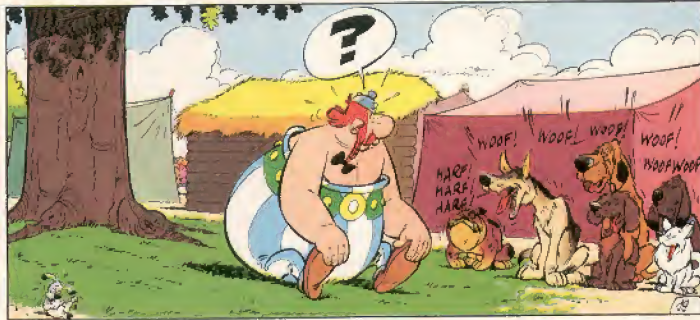
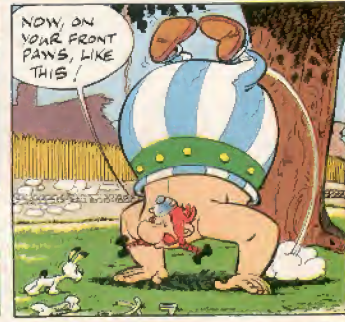
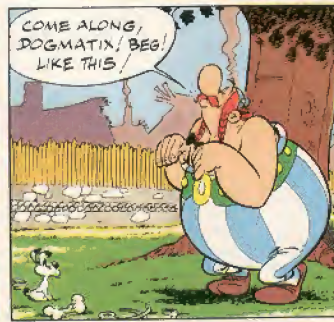
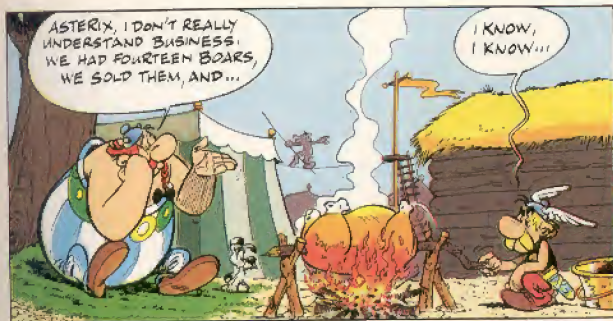
CRAAASH!

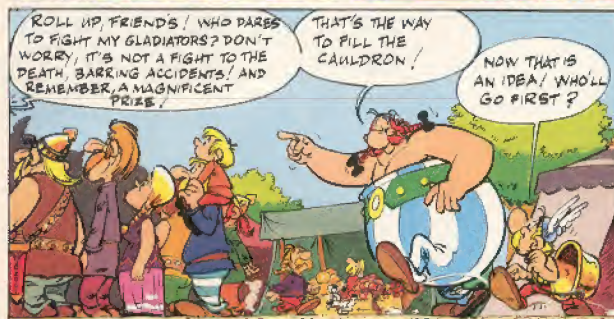
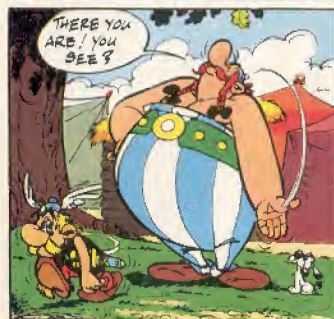
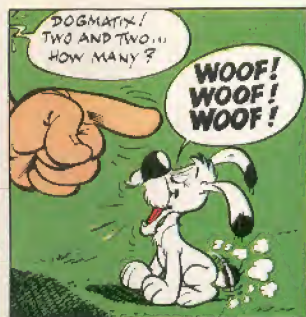
HAH!

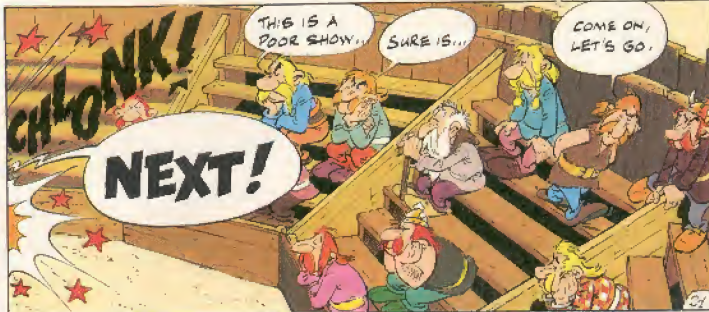
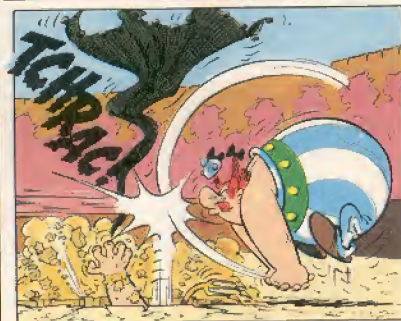
YOU'VE RUINED ME!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO
SELL MY HOUSE AND MY
MENHIRS, ALL BECAUSE
OF YOU...

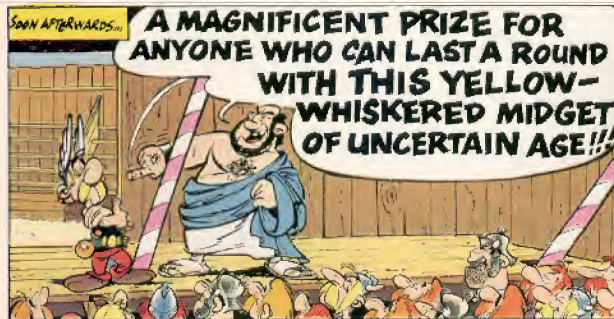
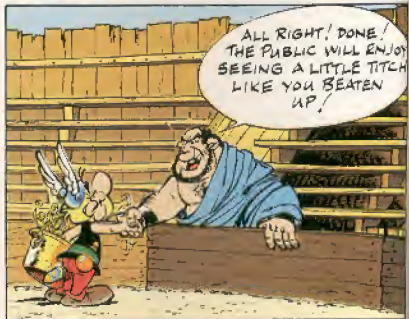
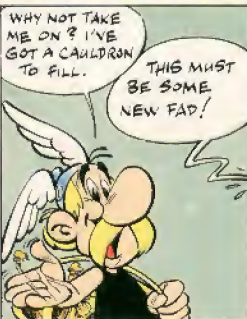
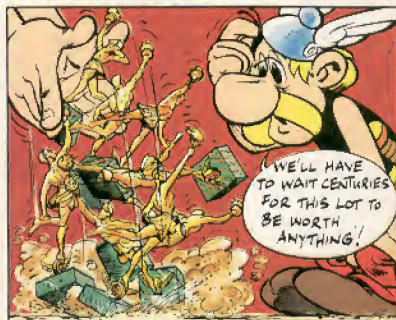
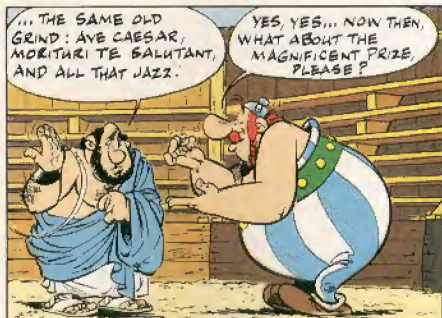
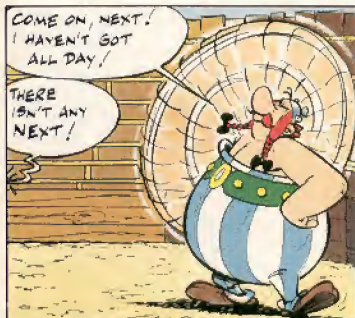
COME, COME, CALM
DOWN... ANYWAY, WE
HAVEN'T EATEN YET.
HOW MUCH ARE YOUR
BOARS?

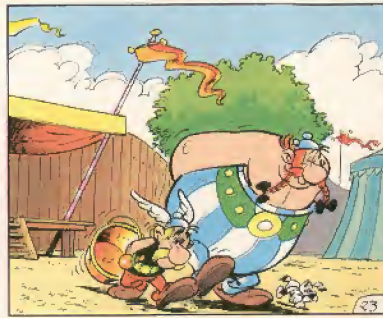
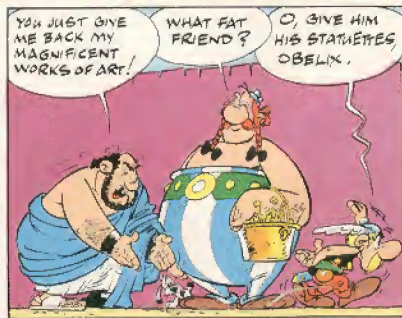
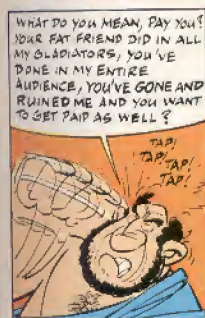
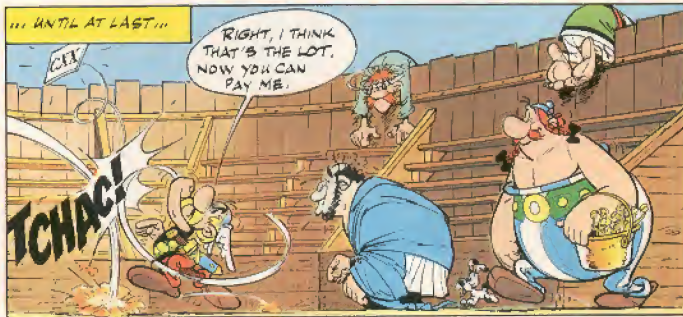
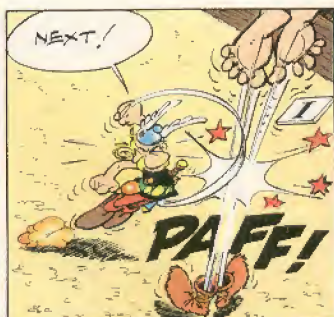
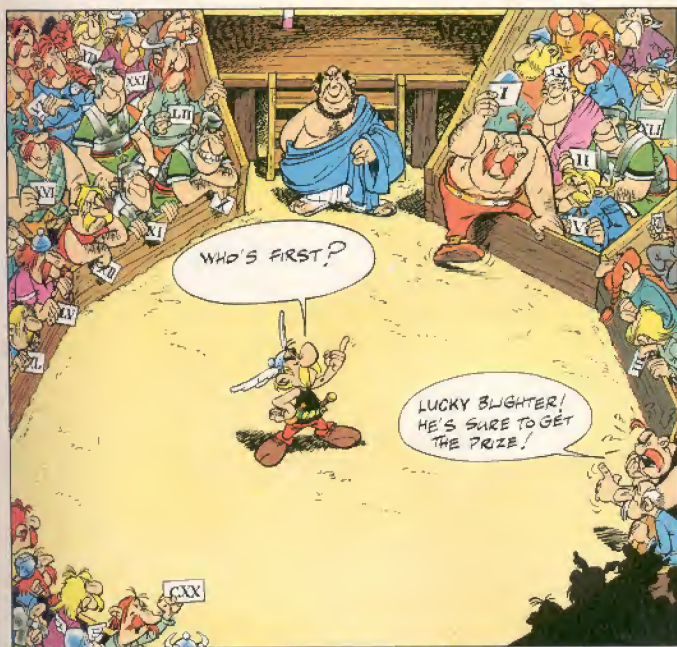
TO YOU, MY BOY,
FIVE SESTERTII
EACH!

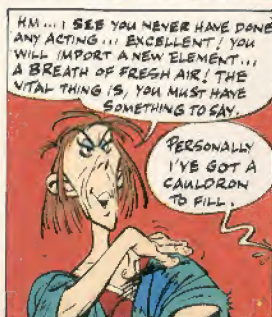
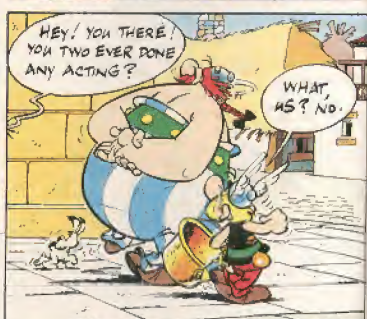
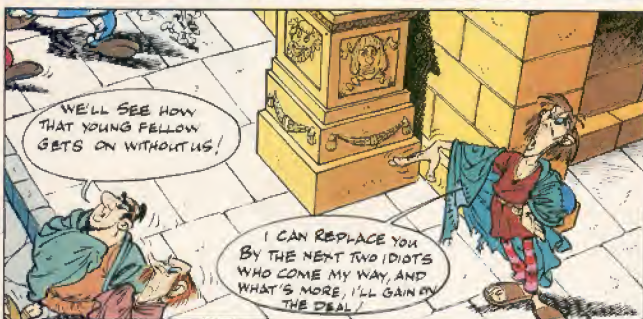
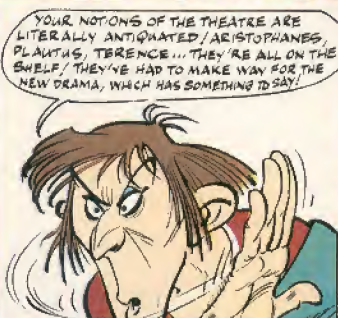
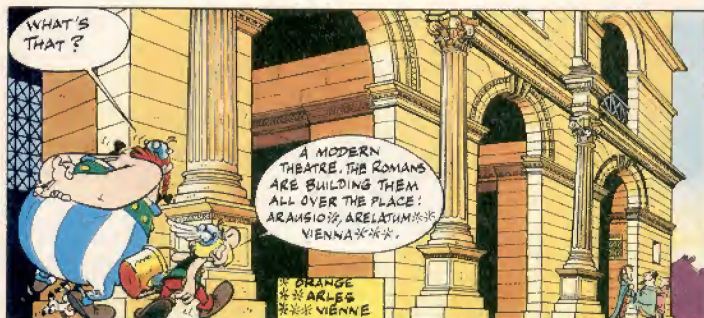


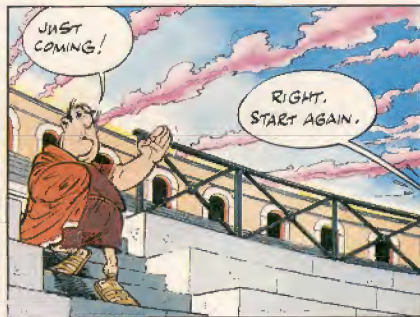
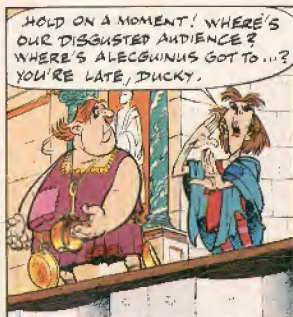
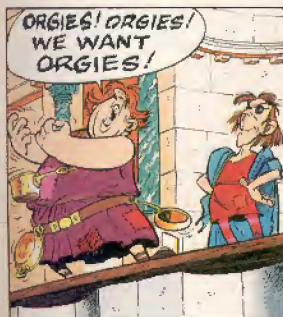
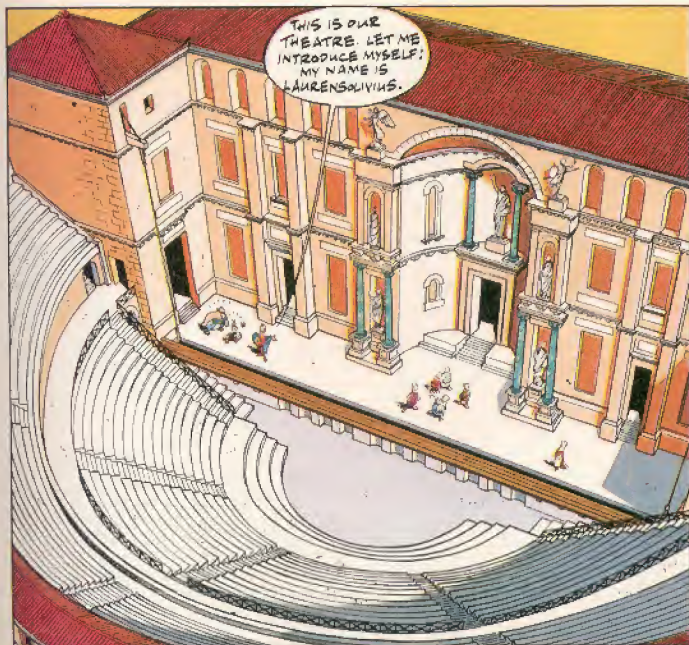


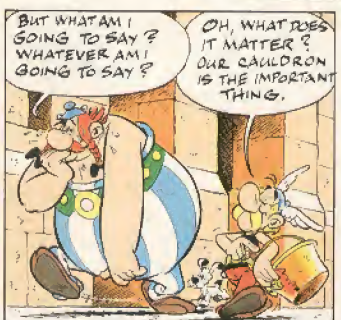
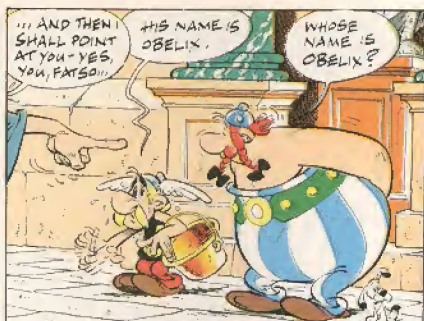












AND THAT EVENING, THE THEATRE FILLS UP WITH THE USUAL SCINTILLATING FIRST-NIGHT AUDIENCE: THE ROMAN PREFECT, THE OFFICERS OF THE GARDE ROYAL, ALL THE LOCAL BIGWIGS, IN FACT, EVERYONE WHO IS ANYONE IN CONDATUM.



THE SHOW STARTS...



DING-DONG!



WHAT AN UGLY LOT
YOU ARE! WE MAY BE
UGLY TOO, BUT YOU'RE
WORSE!

YAAAH!



IT'S SO DREADFULLY
AUTHENTIC!!!



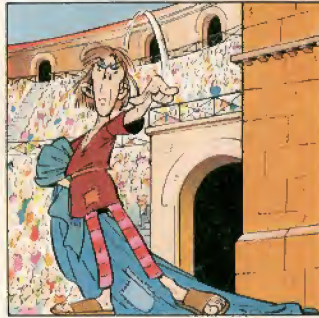
ORGIES! ORGIES!
WE WANT
ORGIES!



STOP! STOP! THIS
IS DISGRACEFUL!
THEY'RE MAKING
FUN OF US!



HE'S
RIGHT!
NO, HE
ISN'T!
THROW
HIM OUT!
MUSEUM
PIECES!
ROMAN
RELICS!

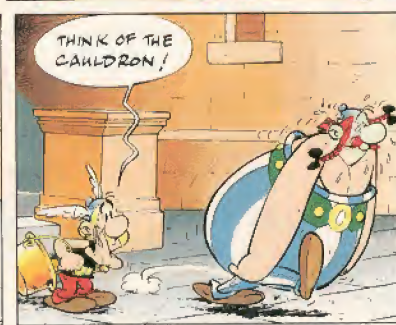


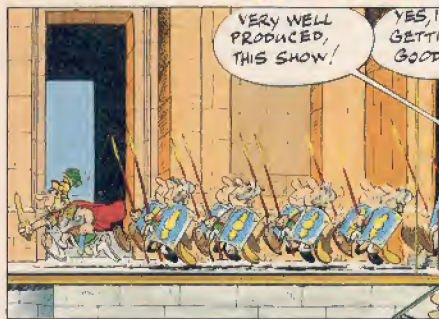
THAT'S YOUR
CHE! GO ON!
GO ON, THEN!

... I'LL NEVER
MAKE IT!

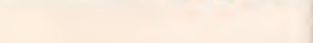


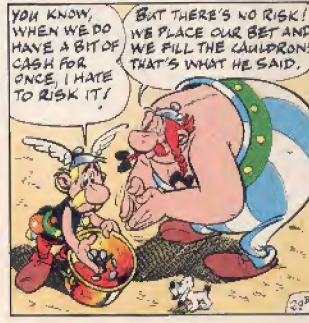
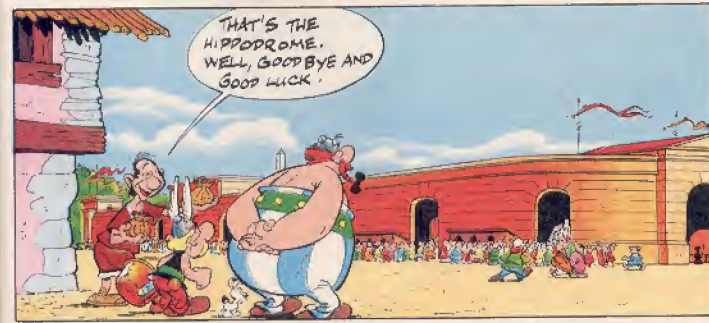
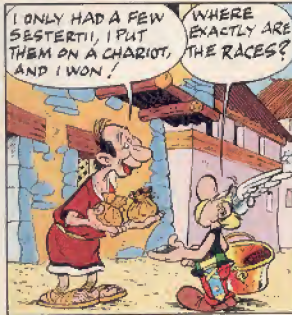
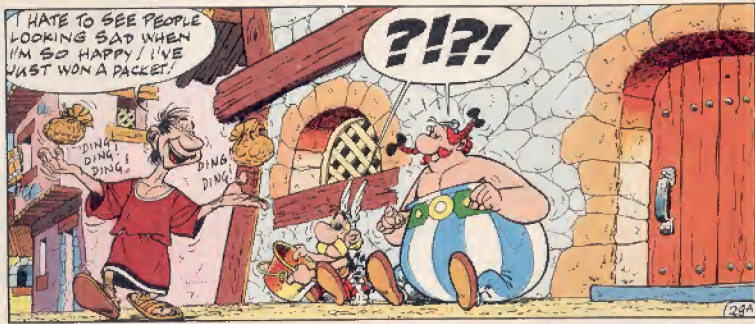
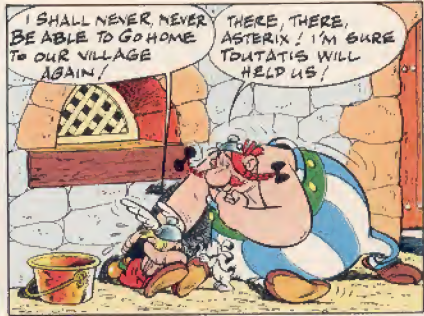
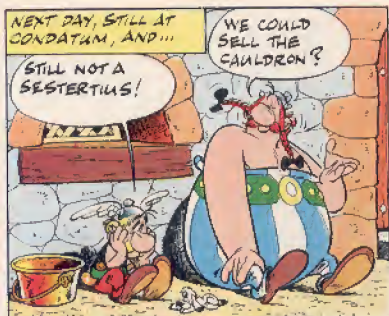
THINK OF THE
CAULDRON!

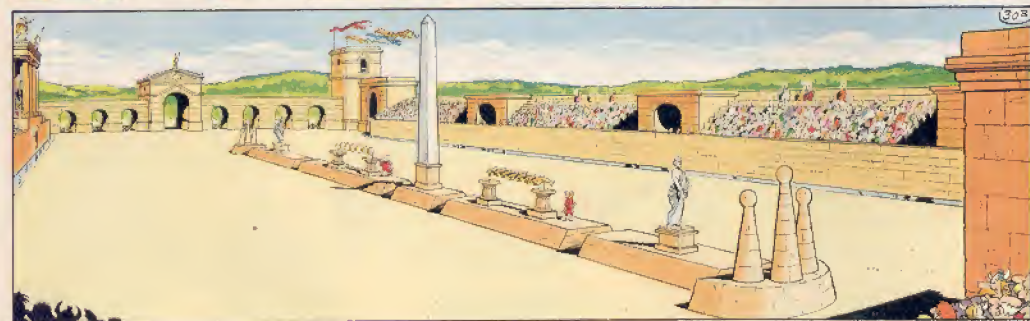
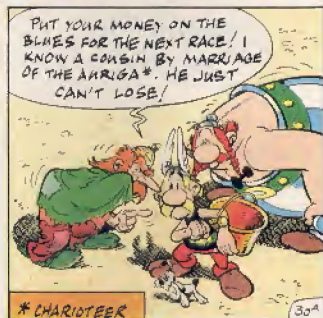
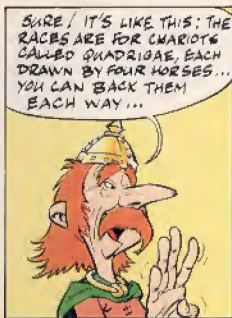
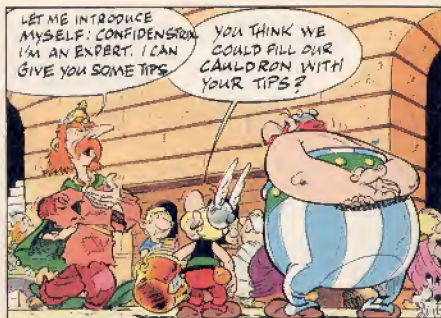
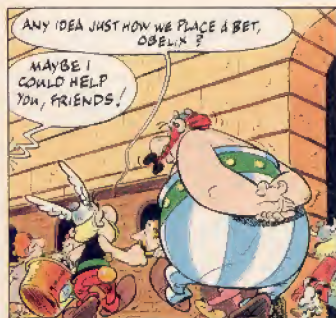


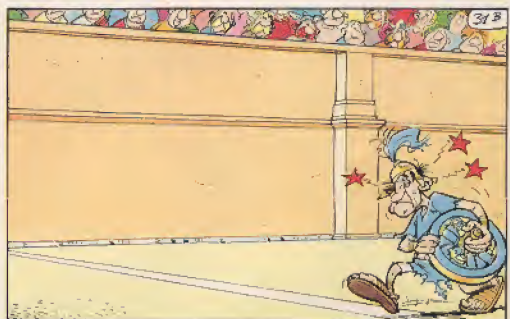
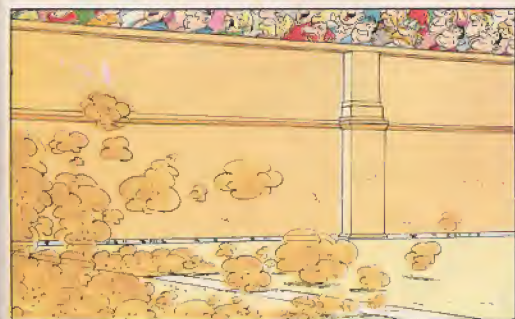
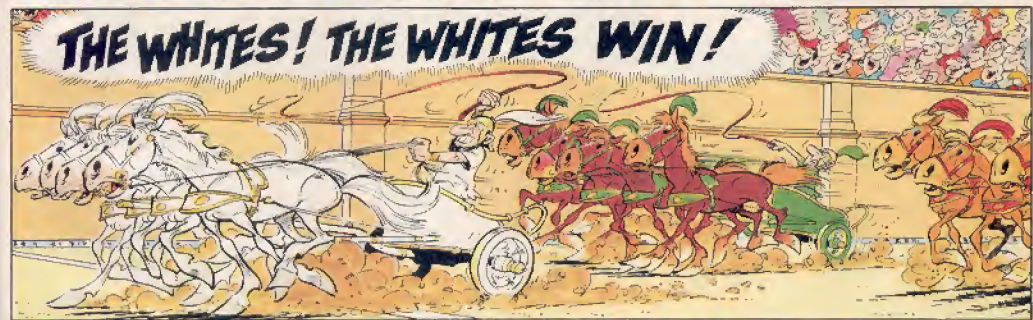
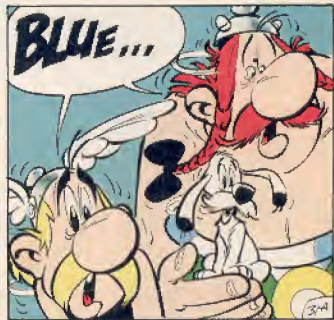
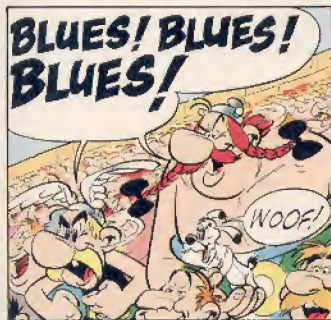
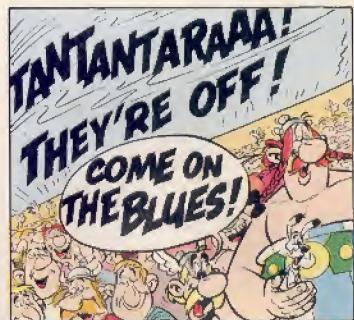
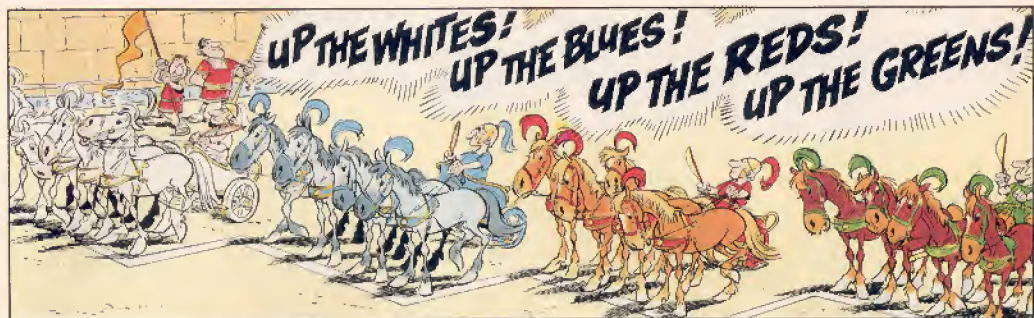


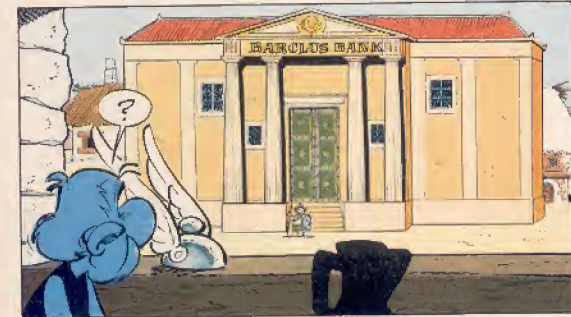
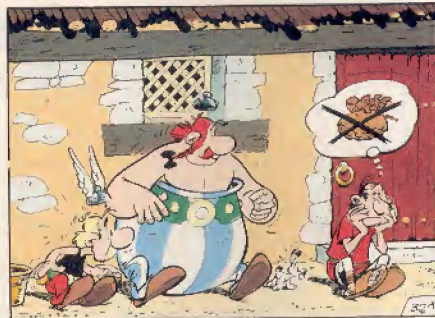
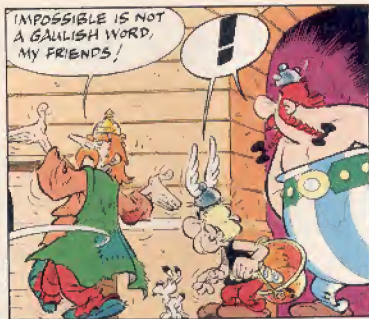
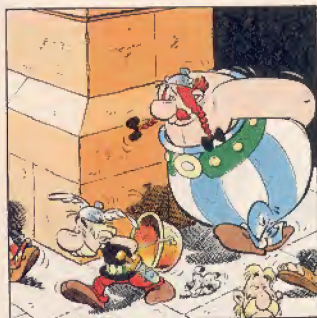
LATER, OUTSIDE THE TOWN JAIL...

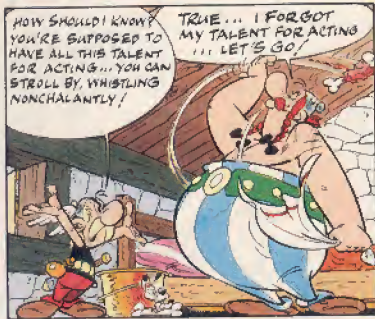
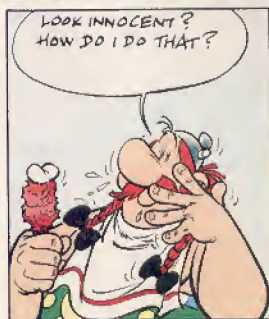
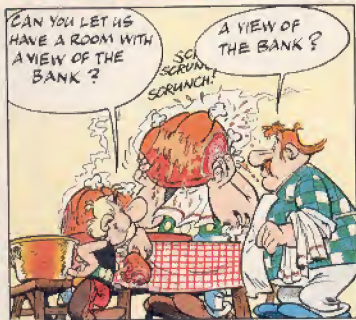
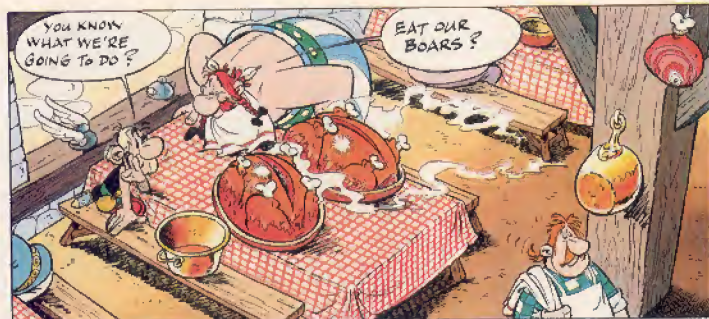


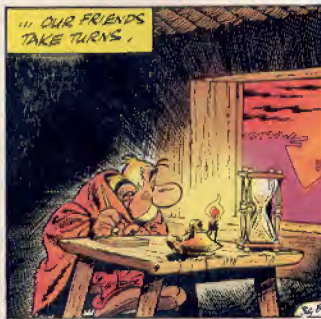
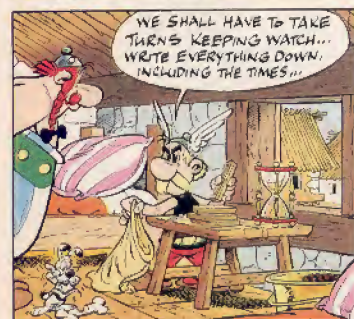
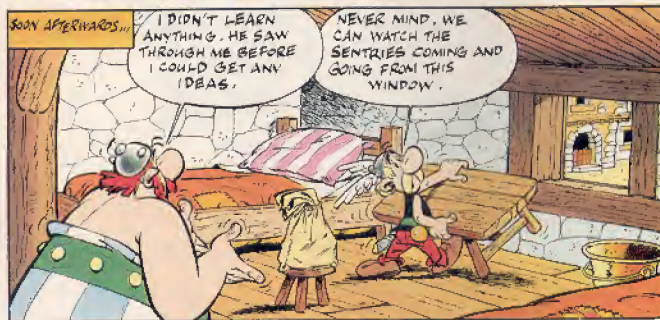
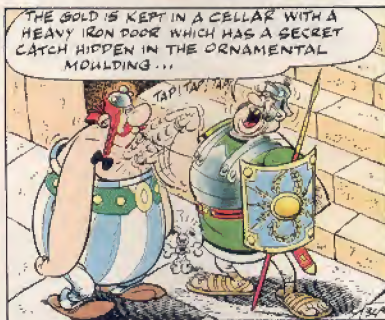
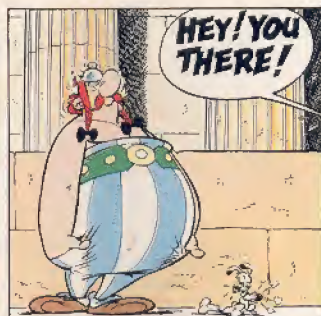
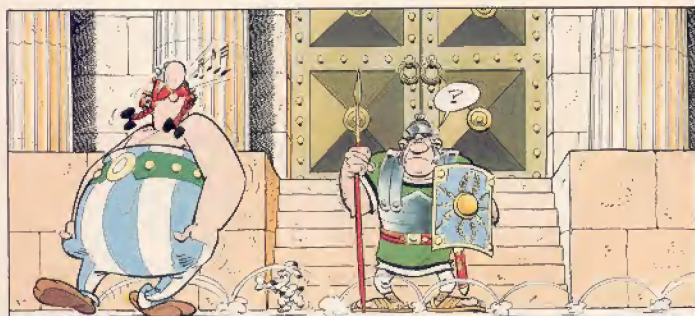


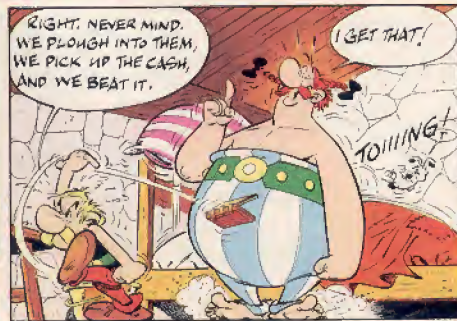
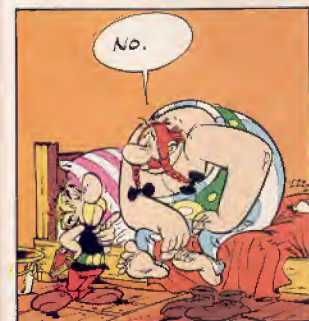
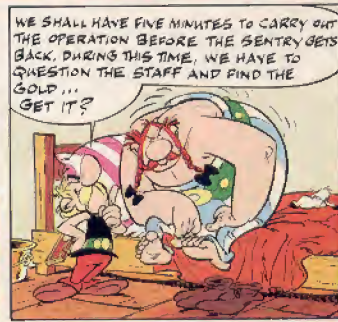
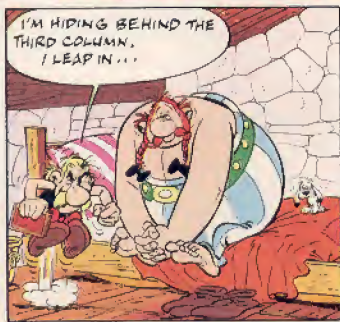
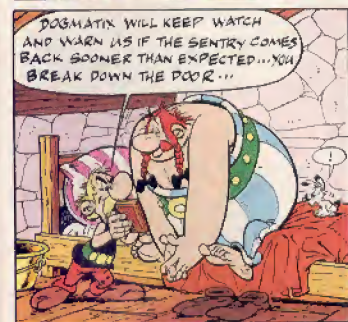
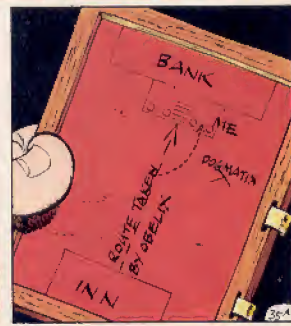
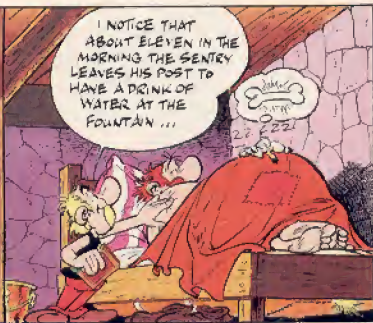


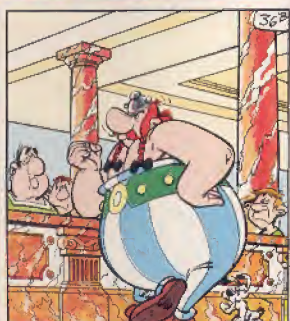
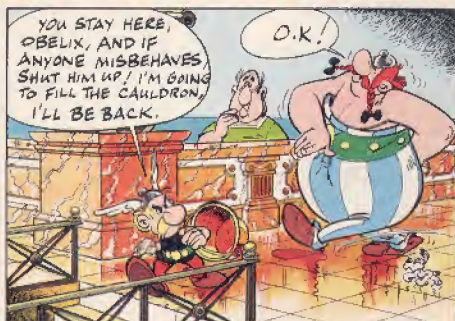
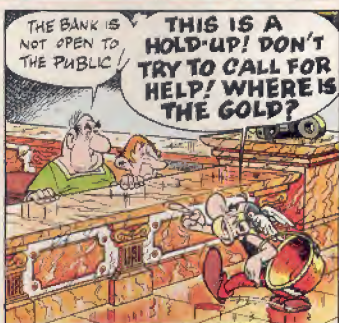
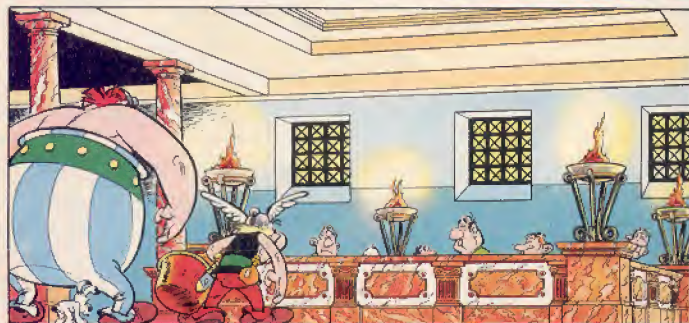
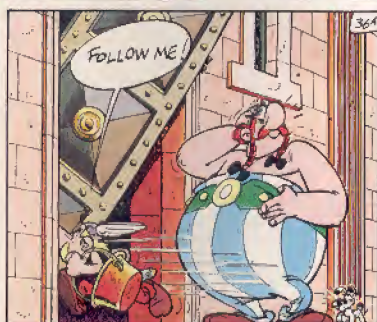
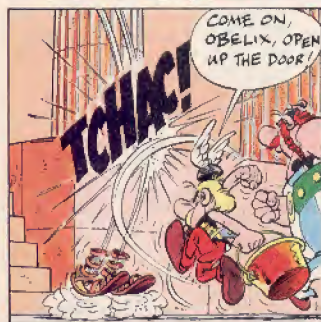


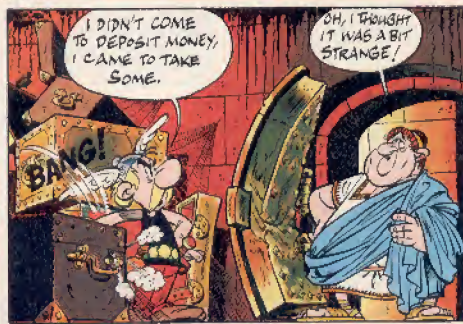
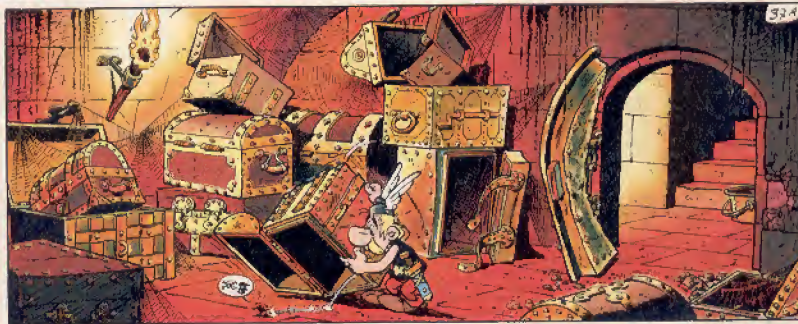
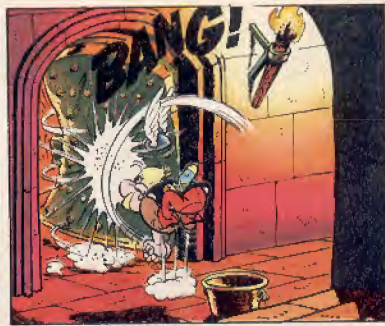
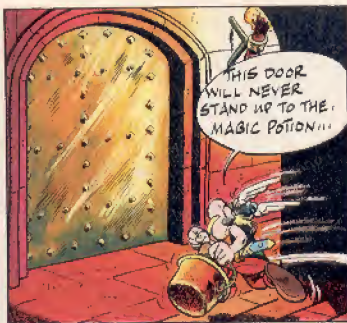




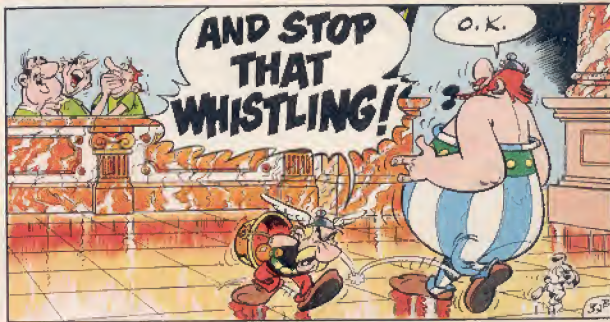


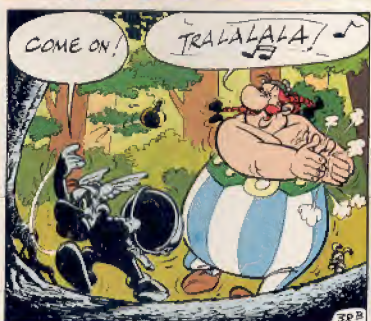
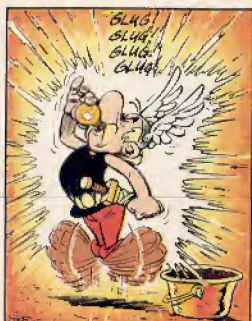
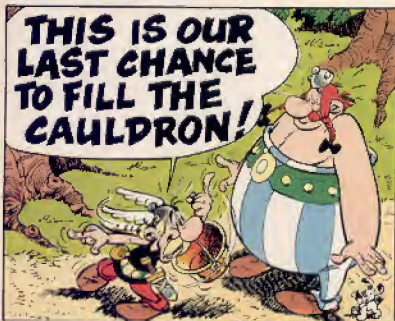
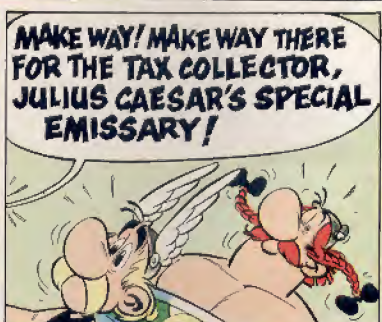
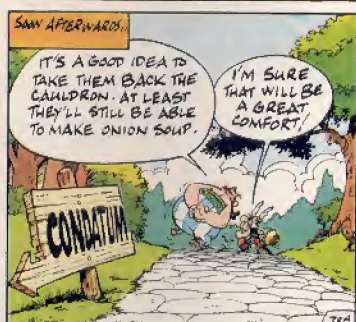
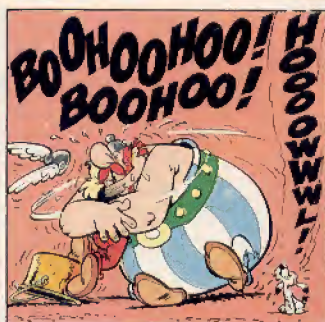
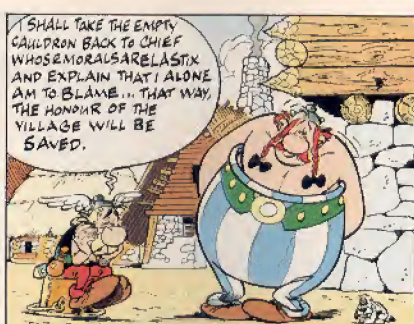


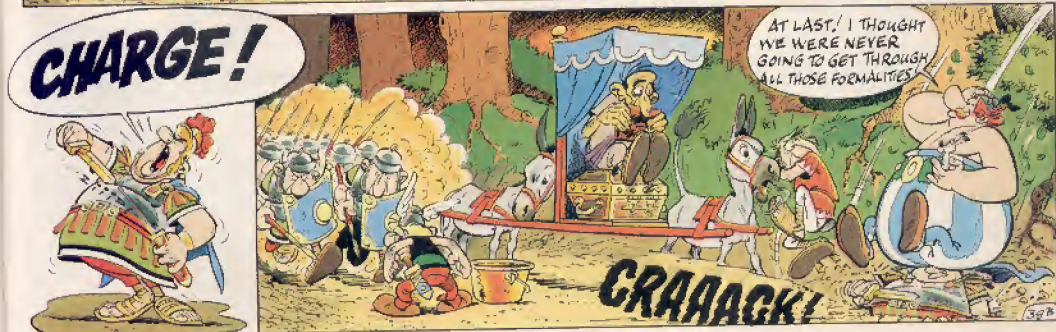
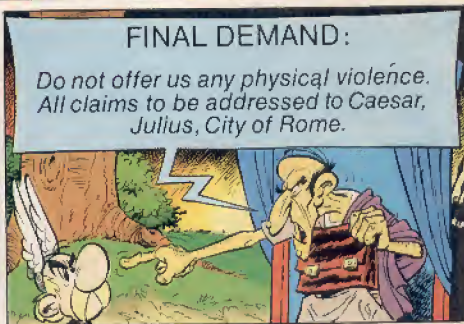
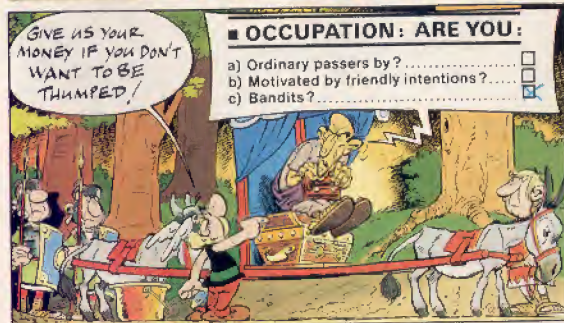
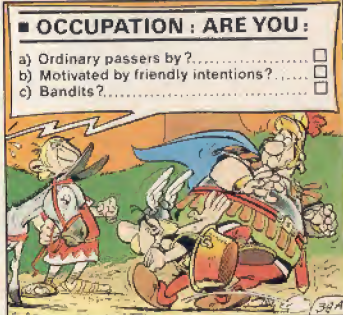
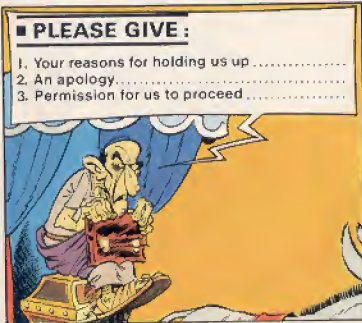


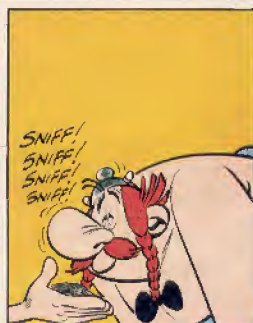
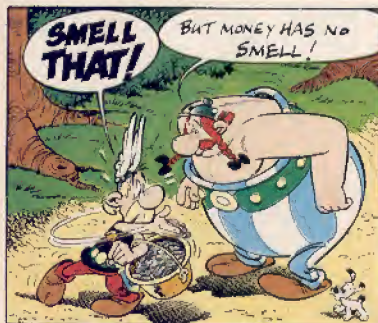
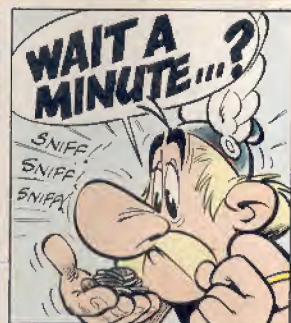
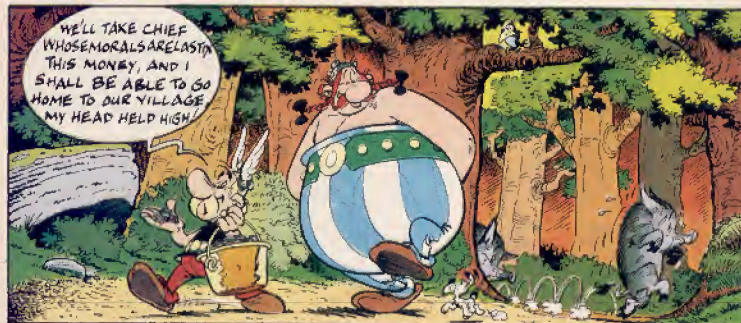
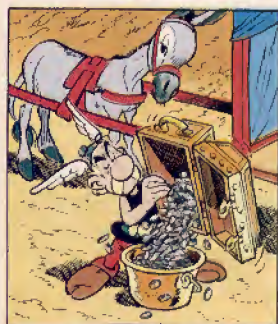
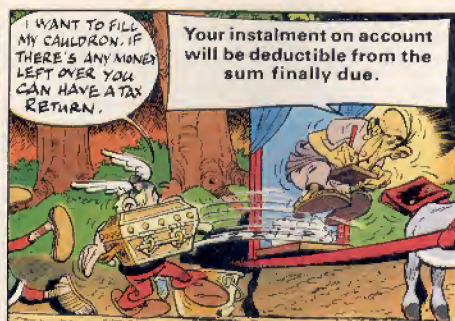


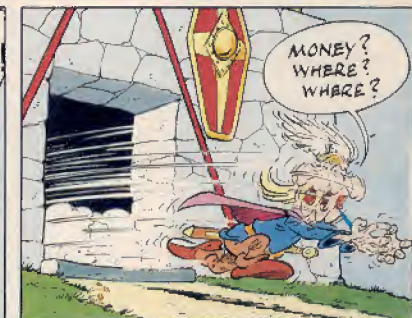
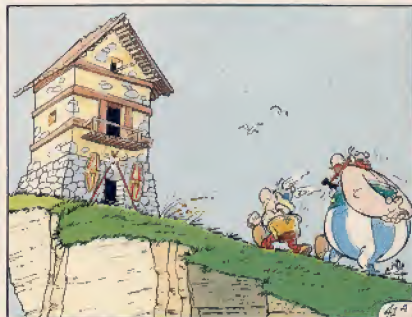
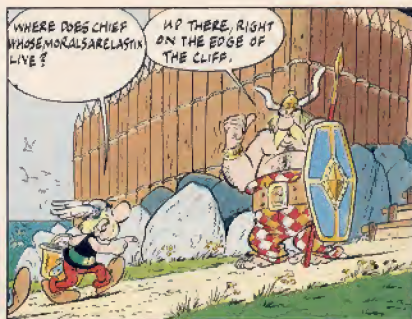
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT, MY POOR FELLOW! NOT A SESTERTIUS! THAT'S WHY CAESAR LEVIES TAXES... QUID PRO QUID, OLD CHAP. AT LEAST, PRECIOUS LITTLE FOR ANYONE ELSE OH, CAESAR'S A REAL OLD PRO!

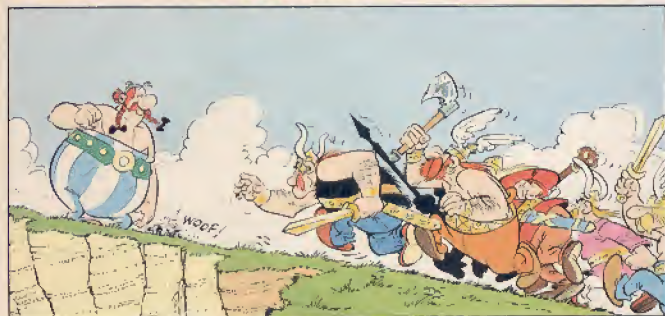
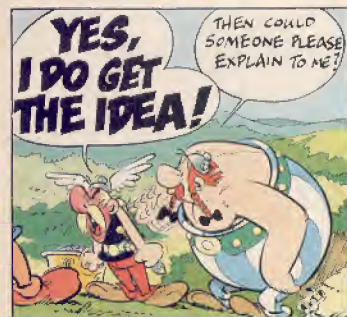
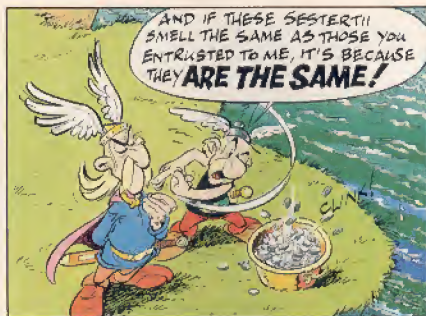


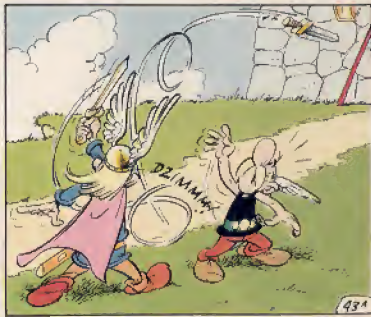
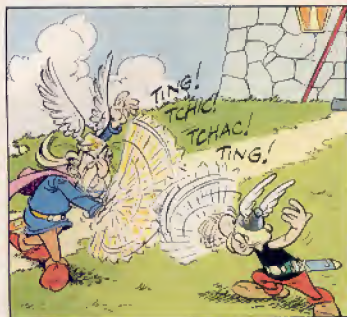
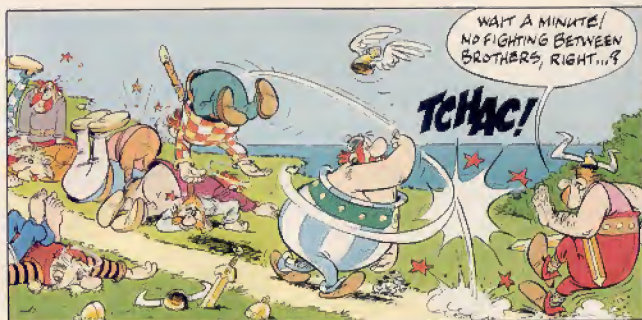




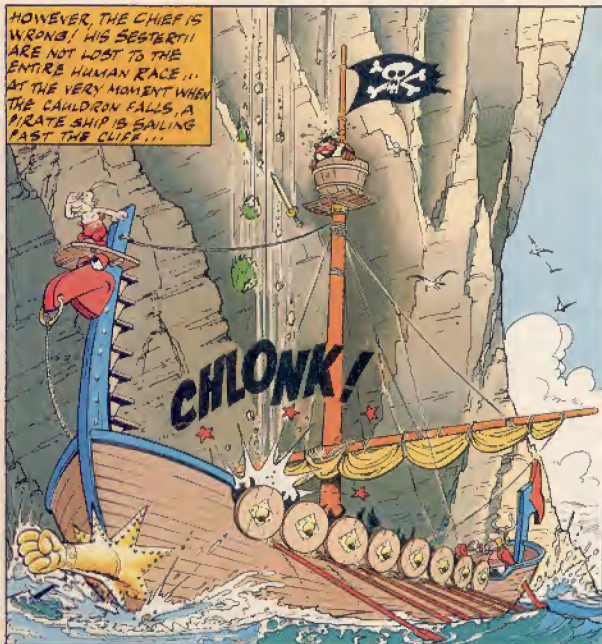




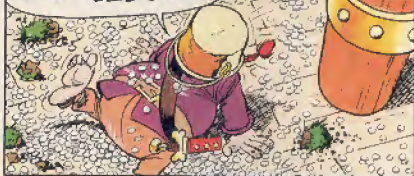




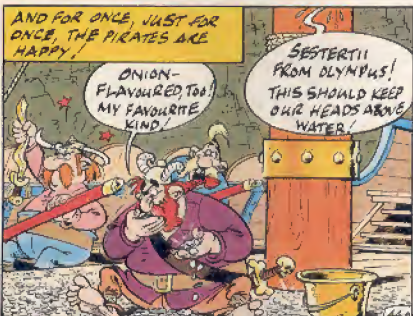
HOWEVER, THE CHIEF IS WRONG! HIS SESTERTII ARE NOT LOST TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!! AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE CAULDRON FALLS, A PIRATE SHIP IS SAILING PAST THE CLIFF...



MUTINY! SUFFERING SEASERPENTS, WHO DARED CROWN ME WITH A CAULDRON!



AND FOR ONCE, JUST FOR ONCE, THE PIRATES ARE HAPPY!



ONION-FLAVOURED TOO! MY FAVOURITE KIND!

SESTERTII FROM OLYMPUS! THIS SHOULD KEEP OUR HEADS ABOVE WATER!

AS HAPPY AS OUR FRIENDS, THE TOAST OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE, WHICH, THANKS TO THEM, HAS PRESERVED ITS HONOUR INTACT!

BUT WHAT INEVITABLE DID UNDERSTAND IS WHY ANYONE WOULD PUT MONEY IN THAT CAULDRON INSTEAD OF ONION SOUP IN THE FIRST PLACE!



THE END

4-DECEMBER
GOSWORTHY